CORRESPONDENCE

IN REGARD TO

MR. JOHN W. GARRETT'S PRESENT

OF

FOUR CAMELS

TO

DRUID HILL PARK,

WITH AN APPENDIX.

PRINTED BY THE ORDER OF THE PUBLIC PARK COMMISSION.

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CITY HALL,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PARK COMMISSION,

Baltimore, September 22, 1883.

SPECIAL MEETING.

The Chairman read to the Commission a letter from MR. JOHN W. GARRETT, in regard to the four Camels, which have recently been delivered at Druid Hill Park, presented by the King of Italy to Mr. Garrett, and by him presented to Druid Hill Park—when, on motion,

Resolved, That the Public Park Commission of Baltimore, recognize in the gift now made by Mr. Garrett, but another evidence of the interest which he takes in the parks of the city—and especially Druid Hill Park—and as an additional proof of the liberality to which that park is already so much indebted.

Resolved, That copies of Mr. Garrett's letter and accompanying documents be printed in pamphlet form.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, *September 10, 1883.*

JOHN H. B. LATROBE, Esq.,
Chairman of the Park Commission.

MY DEAR SIR:

I take pleasure in presenting to the Park Commission four Camels, two males and two females, recently given to me by the King of Italy.

I am informed these are admirable specimens of a superior breed, known as that of St. Rossore, which were raised by the King from the excellent stock which has long been in possession of the Royal family.

I beg to enclose copies of the following letters:

A. S. E., Ministro della Real Cassa, 21st August, 1883,

Signore Simone Peruzzi, 24th August, 1883,

Madam Peruzzi, 12th August, 1883,

and of my replies to the two former, as well as a pamphlet giving the history, character and proper method of treatment of these animals. These give valuable particulars, which I hope will prove interesting and useful in enabling you to perfect a proper method for their care and treatment.

You will note I am advised that the Camels were to be shipped by the steamship "Independente," under the care of Mr. D. E. Curran, from Palermo, on the 26th of August.

I have written to my son, Mr. T. Harrison Garrett, to arrange for receiving the Camels on arrival at New York, and asked him to have them transported under the charge of Curran, from New York to Baltimore, and to have them delivered, without cost to you, at Druid Hill Park.

Trusting, from the antecedents and choice characteristics of these animals, that they will prove attractive and interesting to our community, and to the wide range of visitors to Druid Hill Park, and that they may "increase and multiply,"

I am, with great regard,

Faithfully yours,

JOHN W. GARRETT.

[COPY.]

MILAN, *21 Aout, 1883.*

MONSIEUR:

Le Roi mon Auguste Souverain etant parti pour la chasse n'a pu, comme Il en avait le desir, vous exprimer subitement la grande satisfaction pour le superbe etalon dont vous avez bien voulu Lui faire hommage.

Sa Majeste se réserve de vous remercier directement, de ce magnifique cadeau, et m'a chargé, en attendant, d'être

auprés de vous interprête de ses bienveillants sentiments, et de vous signifier toute son admiration pour la rare beauté du cheval.

Le Roi a aussi voulu vous destiner quatre chameaux de la race Royale di St. Rossore, et il espère que vous vondrez les garder comme un rémoignage de sa reconnaissance pour la preuve de sympathie que vous avez eu l'obligeance de Lui donner.

Je rempli avec bonheur les ordres gracieux de sa Majesté, et je profite de l' occasion pour vous assurer, Monsieur, de toute ma considération.

Pour le Ministre de la Maison du Roi

M. RATTAZZI.

[COPY.]

PARIS, *September 8, 1883.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your valued communication of August 21.

I am greatly gratified to learn that "Damascus" arrived safely, and has proven so satisfactory to His Majesty, the King. I hope his choice lineage, beauty and excellent qualities will be perpetuated through numerous scions.

Pray express to His Majesty my acknowledgments and high appreciation of his kindness in sending to me four Camels of the Royal race of St. Rossore. I expect to return to Baltimore in the early part of October, and hope to see them safely there, in perfect condition, after their long voyage. They will be a source of great pleasure to my fellow citizens, as well as to myself, and, in view of their history, these fine animals will attract peculiar interest.

I am, with high consideration,

Faithfully yours,

JOHN W GARRETT.

A. S. E.
Ministro della Real Casa,
Palazzo Reale,
Milano, Italia.

[COPY.]

LEGHORN, *24th August, 1883.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to inform you, that by order of his Majesty, the King of Italy, on the 22d of August, I shipped the four (4) camels that his Majesty sends to you. These four camels, two males and two females, are entrusted to the care of Mr. Curran, who took them in charge at Leghorn, to convey them to Palermo to meet the Rubatimo steamer, the "Independente," which sails directly for America from that port on the 26th August. I saw that

these animals left in perfect condition, and everything has been done to insure their well being and comfort on the journey, Mr. Curran having been made acquainted with the method of treatment required. A box has also been sent, containing a model of the saddle used for loading them when they are at work.

I enclose a pamphlet on this breed of camels, thinking it may prove useful, by which you will see that great kindness is necessary, and that the males are so extremely jealous of each other that they must be separated, and, at certain seasons of the year, kept at *great* distance from each other.

I am furthermore desired to enclose a letter to you from the Ministro della Real Casa, written by order of his Majesty the King, and at the same time to assure you that you will receive an autograph letter from his Majesty himself.

Hoping that this royal gift will give you pleasure, and that you will succeed in propagating the race of camels in America, believe me, dear sir, to be,

Yours truly,

Cn. Simone Peruzzi.

[COPY.]

PARIS, *September 8, 1883*,

MY DEAR SIR:

I have received your esteemed favor of 24th August, with the pamphlet, and the letter from the Ministro della Real Casa enclosed.

I am greatly obliged for the interesting particulars which you have given me of the preparation and shipment of the two pair of camels, and for the model of the saddle.

I take pleasure in enclosing to you a copy of my reply to the Minister.

I will have the pamphlet translated, and see that careful attention is given to all the suggestions therein embraced, as to the care and management of the animals.

I expect to sail by the "Germanie" on the 27th of September, and to be in Baltimore about the 8th of October,

I have forwarded instructions to my son to have the animals received on their arrival in New York, and to arrange with Curran to take them to Baltimore, in whatever may be the safest and best manner for their transportation.

I design presenting these interesting animals to the Commissioners of our beautiful Druid Hill Park, which is a magnificent property of 700 acres. I will have the most careful attention paid to them, and I hope that the breed will be successfully propagated, and that they will prove of great interest to the many thousands of citizens and strangers who are constantly visitors at this park.

I am greatly obliged to Madam Peruzzi and yourself for your thoughtful care, provision and successful attention in connection with the delivery of "Damascus," and the preparation and shipment of these animals. I hope I may have it in my power to reciprocate your great kindness.

I will, after my return to the United States, take pleasure in advising you of the arrival and condition of the animals.

I am, with great regard,

Yours very truly,

JOHN W. GARRETT.

SIGNORE PERUZZI,
6 Via de Serragli,
Florence, Italy.

Extract of letter from Madame Peruzzi to her Father, W. W. Story, Esq.

LAGO, *August 12, 1883.*

Simone has just returned from his journey to Milan, Monza, Genoa and Pisa. All has been arranged most satisfactorily at last, although not without trouble. The two male Camels were at once forthcoming, but as the females are kept at large in the macchia, it was impossible to domesticate them enough to attempt the journey in time to meet the "Washington," which sailed to-day from Palermo.

Simone has been able to arrange that Mr. Curran leaves by the next steamer, the "Independente," of the same line, which goes from Palermo on the 26th, I believe. Curran goes now to Pisa to study the mode of treatment of these animals, as they are peculiar, and are only to be treated with the utmost kindness and care. Simone will send a pamphlet to Mr. Garrett about these Camels, which he would do well to have translated into English. Of one thing they must be careful, not to allow the males any communication with each other during certain months of the year,—December, January and February,—as they are then very violent, and might destroy each other. All this of course is well explained in the pamphlet. I am afraid it will be no easy thing to get them safely to America, but Simone says that they are fine specimens, and all will be done that can be done to ensure a safe journey. For

this reason, Simone will again return to Leghorn on the 20th to see them properly embarked. Of course he has been delighted to do anything he could in the matter.

The King is much pleased with "Damascus," and keeps him still at Monza, that he may go every morning to see him in his box. I think the horse is entirely appreciated.

Your affectionate,

EDITH.

TRANSLATION.

MILAN, *August 21, 1883.*

SIR:

The King, my august sovereign, being absent, has not been able, as he had wished, to express to you directly his great satisfaction with the superb stallion that you have presented to him.

His Majesty reserves it to himself to thank you for this magnificent present, and has directed me, in the mean time, to convey to you his friendly sentiments, and his admiration of the great beauty of the animal.

The King has also set apart for you four camels, of the royal breed of St. Rossore; and he hopes that you will regard them as a proof of his appreciation of the feeling that you have had the kindness to entertain for him.

It gives me great pleasure to obey the gracious directions of his Majesty, and I profit by the occasion to assure you of my high consideration.

For le Ministre de la Maison du Roi

M. RATTAZZI.

APPENDIX.

Short Notice on the Breed of Camels

IN THE ROYAL ESTATE OF ST. ROSSORE.

The time to which may be traced back the introduction of camels in Tuscany is not exactly known, nor when the breed of those animals was established in St. Rossore; some believe that it was about 1607, and others about 1622.

However, it has been ascertained that this breed existed in the Royal Estate of St. Rossore towards the end of the reign of the Medici family in Tuscany; but in the last days of its reign, said breed was nearly destroyed by an epizootic, and after that it was renewed with 6 camels imported from Tunis about the year 1738. Since that time the breed has been constantly maintained with different variations. At one time the drove amounted to 206 animals, composed of 108 females of different ages, 65 males, freight carriers, and 33 unbroken colts.

At the present time there are at the Royal Estate of St. Rossore 137 animals, divided as follows: 56 females, 37 colts of different ages and sexes, 45 males, freight carriers, and one stallion.

But the aim of this short notice is chiefly to demonstrate that, after the different experiments made in the Royal Estate, some useful services can be obtained from these animals, and the propagation be tried in a climate different from their own.

The Royal Estate of St. Rossore, where the breed of camels exists now, is located in a climate very temperate in Winter, as it is all over the plain of Pisa.

As the camel proceeds originally from warmer climates, such as those of Asia and of Africa, he is much affected by cold weather; therefore it is safe in Winter time, and especially during the night, to keep him in the stable, taking care also that he is not exposed to the northern wind. In day time he can rove about the field.

In the breeding season, it is necessary that the males, as well as the females, should remain in liberty, absolutely by themselves, in some secluded building or enclosure, (always during the day.) The breeding takes place during the Winter, and precisely in the months of December, January and February, and their pregnancy lasts about twelve months. It has never occurred in the breed on the Royal Estate of St. Rossore that a female camel brought forth twins. When the young ones are born, they are in need of great and careful assistance, at least for fifteen days; and as they are not entirely able to stand upon their legs, they must be lifted and brought near the breast to be fed, and to avoid the danger of being crushed.

The females are apt for generation when 3 years old, and the males are able to cover when 5 years old. When the female is nursing her suckling foal, she cannot be covered again until after the second year; but if she has a miscarriage, or if her suckling foal should die during the time that she is in heat, then she may be covered again without any interval.

The males are separated from the mother when they are two years old, and the females are left with the mother to increase the breed. One stallion is sufficient for all the breed, and can cover as much as 35 females. Several stallions would hurt each other.

All the naturalists agree that the animal is excessively lustful, and this is also confirmed by the keepers of the breed.

The females can be broken for working when four years old, as well as the males; care should be taken, however, that the former are not pregnant, because in such case they should run the risk of a miscarrirge.

The natural life of camels is about 20 years, and it is seldom that one can be found 25 or 30 years old.

It has been proved that a camel of the greatest strength can carry a weight of 2000 pounds, but they ought never to carry more than 1500 pounds, and rather less.

The animal is as courageous as he is able to suffer fatigue, eats little, and can constantly work from sunrise to one hour before sunset, without eating and resting.

His ordinary food in the stable consists of hay, of which, between day and night, he does not consume more than about 30 pounds, or 10 kilog; but when he is roving on the heath, he eats heads of shrubs, which he likes to nip off exactly like the goat, the two animals being of a similar nature. It is necessary, however, to keep him away from the cherry tree, its leaves being injurious to him.

They drink but once in 24 hours, and when they are in heat, they do not drink for three days.

They should suffer if they were obliged to travel on marshy land, because the sole of their feet is covered with a kind of soft and elastic hoof, which is much affected by the influence of the soil, and a wet soil is especially dangerous for them, because the hoof becomes softened, and so makes it difficult and also painful for them to walk.

They are not adapted to travel in mountainous and alpine localities, as the conformation of their feet does not allow them to walk on steep and rocky roads. The sole of their feet shows that these animals are only fit to travel a regular and flat ground, and henceforth they can accomplish very long journeys in flat and sandy lands, for which it seems that nature has especially formed them.

The camel makes only three miles an hour, and cannot travel more than 25 miles a day. The animal is purely a beast of burden, and could not be successfully employed in harness.

Every year, in the month of May, camels must be sheared and afterwards washed with clean water. In order to tame them, a freight carrier camel must be put in sight of a colt which is to be broken. The former, at the usual sign of the keeper, must bend to the ground in a way to show the young one how to do it. The colt is tied with the halter to a strong post, well fixed in the ground. Its left foot is raised and its knee is tied and bent towards the shoulder, that is to say, is tied with a rope to the forearm, so that he cannot bend the knee; if that is sufficient to make him stoop down, it will not be necessary to tie in the same way the right foot, but if he resists, the right foot must be tied also.

When he is on the ground on his stomach, like the other which has been used as a model, the pack saddle is put on his back, with the two side boxes of the load full of sand. Then he is untied and tied behind to the pack saddle of the tame camel, which precedes him at a short distance, and he is made to walk with the load, and for the first time only a short distance.

The animal does not resist generally, but otherwise, in repeating the operation, he gets gradually obedient, and after five or six trials he is fit for constant work. He must never be ill used.

The most serious diseases to which the camels are subjected are: ulceration of the stomach, acidity, itch, inflammation of the stomach.

The first two cannot be cured; they attack especially the young ones, who die in a few hours. The itch, which is caused principally by bad food, is cured with special ointments, and among them one made with tar, olive oil and brimstone boiled together. The animal must be annointed with it in the morning, without touching the head, and after having cleaned the

crust with a cloth. The animal must so remain two hours in the sun, then he is taken in the shade near by and cleaned with hay. Such an operation is repeated four times, at an interval of five days, and in the case that the disease decreases, three times will be sufficient. If the disease should appear in Autumn, it could reappear in October, but never in Winter. Inflammation of the stomach is combined with a rheumatismal condition, and the animal affected with it stops eating. It can be cured successfully with tonic bitters; for many years the following remedy was used also: small pieces of lard, mixed with raisins, garlic and pepper—one pound altogether, and make with it 5 or 6 pills, soak them in olive oil, and with dexterity make the animal swallow them, keeping on with the remedy until he appears cured.

Young camels are subject to indigestions, and this is cured with a decoction of senna, manna and bitter salt. It is to be noted that this disease attacks especially the young ones, and then the prophylactic cares are better than medicine, and the best is to give to the mother green food, ivy and shrubberry leaves. When the weight of the load produces some tumor, it must be left to gather; it is afterwards opened with the lancet, and medicated inside with lime powder. It is also necessary to avoid that the camels should fall on account of the too heavy loads, or should slip down, because the lameness that may result from it is very hard to cure, and the animal becomes unfit for work. From experiments made for years and years in the Royal Estate of St. Rossore, it is proved that the breed of camels, which was before considered as an object of luxury, has been useful since long. The freight carriers, the number of which can always be increased by taming them, are very useful as means of conveyance, especially in those places that country waggons cannot reach, and in sandy lands. They are used to carry charcoal, hay, earth, &c., and everything which is necessary on the Royal Estate of St. Rossore, and outside where other means of conveyance are deficient.

From the above it can be seen that the camel repays largely with his work what it costs to keep him, and that he is very useful to industry.